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CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

ANOTHER INTERESTING REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN COMMISSION INVESTIGATING AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

(Special to The Times) MILAN, Italy, July 3.—Members of the American Commission on Agricultural cooperation visited one of the model farms of northern Italy today. It is the property of the Count di Ponti. The estate comprises about 1000 acres which is an unusually large holding for Italy, although a member of the commission was able to inform the Count di Ponti that he owned a farm of 4000 acres in Texas, without considering himself a curiosity. The farm is divided into two parts, an irrigated portion which the proprietor reserves for his own use for dairy farming, and a dry portion rented on the share basis, known in Italy as the "mezzadri" system.

The visit of the Americans was made a holiday for the laborers and farm hands although enough men were kept at work to demonstrate the cooperative enterprises on the farm. Automobiles of the American party swept into a farm yard enclosed by a brick house, the porches of which gave a vivid scene of drying clothes, bandanas, wrinkled old peasant women, smiling men and a swarm of curious children. Fourteen families are hired by the proprietor to farm his part of the estate. Nothing of interest from the cooperative standpoint was learned on this part of the farm. The commission was therefore taken to the "dry" part, where live the tenants.

The scores of families which are engaged in farming this portion of the estate live in a little village and here the members of the commission were given their first view of the many possible phases of agricultural cooperation. Men, women and children were lined up along the little street; hats and bandanas were waved in welcome, and the little children murmured their half frightened "Graci" when coppers were slipped into their hands. This part of the estate is divided into holdings of about 30 acres each.

The principal money products of the little farms are cheese and silk worms. Each farmer raises enough of general farm crops to support his family, but most of his attention is given to dairying and to raising silk-worms. The cheese is made in a plant cooperatively owned by the farmers and built with their own money. Three men were at work making Swiss cheese at the time. The farmers bring their milk to the dairy where it is weighed and marked to their credit. According to the amount of milk given to the dairy the farmers receive a percentage of the profits derived from the sale of the cheese. The waste from the milk used in the cheese making is fed to hogs cooperatively owned, which when fattened, are killed in an abattoir likewise cooperatively owned, for nothing is lost on an Italian farm. There is also a sausage factory. Everything these farmers buy comes from a cooperatively owned store. The warehouse held familiar types of American agricultural machinery. The silk worms are turned over to the proprietor who takes a certain portion of the cocoons as his share. All of the farming is done on a share basis, the proprietor putting up the buildings, the farmers contributing the labor and the farm products being divided between them. It was plainly evident that the Count di Ponti was very popular with his tenants. Some years ago when his tenants were required to strike because of a general strike of all tenant farmers in that vicinity, he was elected by his tenants president of the strike committee, so that to him fell the odd task of settling a strike against himself.

Undoubtedly the paternalism which exists in the cooperatively conducted enterprises of this type prevents Americans from receiving many impressions of practical value for them. But it made a great impression upon the delegates, that farmers of this class could be brought to such comparative economic independence through the medium of cooperation. Above all the extreme utilization of everything impressed the Americans. No trees are cut down for fuel, for instance. Each year as many branches are cut off as are necessary and the next year the same process is followed with other trees. This gives the country a curiously fantastic appearance when viewed from a car window. The land is mostly cultivated in long, narrow strips and altogether there is an aspect of artificiality to the garden farms of north Italy.

The visit could not fail to impress Americans. Here were peasant farmers, swarms of them, producing crops on a scale so small that it apparently would have been impossible to market them and yet through the great force of cooperation these farmers were given a far greater control over the manufacture and marketing of their produce than is possessed by most American farmers.

KEEP BOYS AT HOME.

(Special to The Times) TOTMEGYER, Hungary, July 4.—Members of the American Commission on Agricultural Cooperation

P. A. Efrid, Conejo, Cal., gives a pointer for others to profit by. "I have sold Foley's Honey and Tar Compound, also other lines of cough medicine for a number of years, but never used anything but Foley's Honey and Tar Compound for myself or family, as I find it produces the best results, always cures severe colds and does not contain opiates. Owl Prescription Pharmacy, Frank D. Cohan, Opposite Chandler Hotel. Phone 74.

were entertained here today in true Hungarian peasant style. This is a town of 3610 inhabitants and the visit gave the Americans an opportunity to see the Hungarian country folk upon their own hearths.

The commission was first welcomed in the People's House, a sort of town hall erected through cooperative effort. In the vestibule of the hall stood a line of 20 Hungarian peasant girls, evidently chosen for their complexions. As the Americans entered a hearty shout of welcome in Hungarian was heard and the American women were led to the receiving line. Every peasant girl bowed to kiss the hands of the elder American women and made a quaint courtesy to the younger ones. The Americans were then taken to a big hall where they were welcomed in Hungarian speeches by the village priest, Father Charles Simko, the estate physician, Dr. Jaksies, and the town judge. These men are the most important men of the community.

Three times while the speeches were proceeding, the gypsy band in the courtyard below had broken out in music and had to be stopped. It was evidently hard work for them to restrain themselves, for the moment that a hand was raised to tell them that their part of the performance could begin, they broke out in tumultuous melody. Then the peasant girls in their brilliant native attire began the dances of rural Hungary. These are wonderful dances possible only for a dance loving people. There was a luncheon served in the open with huge mugs of beer and the favorite cold meats of the country. The peasant girls were the waitresses and great was the popularity of those members of the commission who could master enough German or French to translate for their fellow Americans a request to the pretty county maids.

After luncheon dancing was begun again and this time the Americans were invited to try their skill. The effort was not very successful but the gypsy band was found able to improvise a form of "Everybody's Doin' It" and so a turkey trot exhibition was changed for the dance of the peasants. Cameras were produced and a chapter of pretty faces added to the record of the commission.

When the fun was over a study was made of the life of the village. Certainly it was studied with more appreciation than it could have been done before the village party. The houses of the peasants were opened, not to curious busybodies, but to friends who had come to a party. The houses were comparatively large and scrupulously clean. Age darkened and carved wood furniture and beams were the chief decorations.

Most of the country about Totmegeyer is the property of Count Karolyi. In 1896 a farmers' association was formed which movement assumed a practical form in 1900 when a cooperative distributive society was organized. This society operate a butcher shop, a sausage shop, and a bakery. The commission were fed with the products of the society at luncheon and their quality was beyond criticism. The cooperative credit society was formed in 1902 and in 1912 handled \$25,200. It has 368 members and a capital of \$4,520. Its deposits of now amount to \$18,400, and its reserve to a little over \$1000. The affairs of the cooperative societies and of the farmers' association are carried on in the People's House, which was given to the villagers by Countess Karolyi. In the winter evenings entertainments are given in the big hall of the People's House and a library of 600 volumes is maintained. There are also two bowling alleys and a tennis ground.

The cooperative movement in Hungary is probably more social than economic, or rather it is an attempt to accomplish a social task through economic means. The village of Totmegeyer offers a wonderful example of what the movement may accomplish. The boys of this village, it is said, have no desire to leave for the towns. They are content to marry to the girls of the village and to stick to their farms. Apparently through cooperation, in its broadest sense, which means a thoroughly developed community life, the problem of rural life has been solved in Totmegeyer.

HOME FROM COLLEGE.

A Portland paper says, "Miriam Van Waters, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Van Waters, will arrive in Portland tomorrow from Worcester, Mass., for a seven weeks' visit with her parents before entering upon social service work in Boston, Mass. Although she is only 25 years of age, she has just received her degree of doctor of philosophy at Clark University, at Worcester, a reward for three years' post graduate work at the institution. Miss Van Waters is well known in Portland where she was reared from a child. She is a graduate of St. Helen's Hall, and the University of Oregon. At Oregon she took two years post graduate work prior to departing for Worcester. Miss Van Waters passed a brilliant examination at Clark recently, and was highly complimented upon her comprehensive grasp of subjects which she had studied."

SWEETS

Did it ever occur to you that the place to buy good, toothsome candies is here? Jelly beans, 1-2lb. 10c Coconut squares 1-2lb 10c Wrapped caramels 10c Butter cups, 1-2lb. 10c Plain mix, 1 pound 15c ALWAYS FRESH because "ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW." Peoples' 5-10-15c Store New Location Front St., Opp. Postoffice.

ALASKA TIMBER FOR PAPER PULP

(Special to The Times.) WASHINGTON, D. C., July 5.—Bids have just been received by the Forest Service for 300 million feet of timber which has been advertised for sale on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, and an additional 300 million feet from the same forest has been applied for. A large part of this timber is Sitka spruce, which will be made into paper pulp not only for the Pacific coast and the Orient, but for the general pulp market.

The latest estimates available show that there is a stand of approximately 70 billion feet on the Tongass National Forest and approximately 28 billion feet on the Chugach National Forest in Alaska. Recent investigations have shown this amount of be very much larger than was supposed. The Alaskan Forests in fact contain approximately one-sixth of the total stand of timber on the national forests. The annual cut on the Tongass Forest has increased gradually from zero at its creation in 1902 until it amounted to approximately forty-three million feet in the year 1912. This entire amount has been cut for local use, largely for boxes to contain canned salmon. The latest large sale is remarkable in that it indicates a beginning of the utilization of Alaskan timber in the general markets.

On the area on the Stikine river, for which bids have been received, the species to be cut include Sitka spruce, hemlock, red cedar, cottonwood, and yellow cedar, and the minimum stumpage rates range from \$2.50 to \$10.00 a thousand feet, according to species, the yellow cedar bringing the highest price. Another pulp company has made application for the other area, at the head of Thorn Arm, which contains the same species to be sold at similar prices. This company has had men examining timberlands in Alaska during a long period and over large areas, and has come to the conclusion that the Tongass timber offers the best opportunity it has seen.

The three great advantages which the paper manufacturers say they are finding in Alaska are abundant supplies of timber, cheap hydro-electric power, and tide-water transportation—all of these in one and the same locality. Both areas adjoin deep water and it is probable that the plants will be so located that ocean freighters can be loaded at the mills.

A cutting period of 20 years will be allowed, with two years additional for construction work. The prices may be adjusted at five-year intervals to take care of possible advances in lumber values.

LUMBER TRADE BETTER. Outlook for Heavier Buying and Advance in Prices.

The San Francisco correspondent of the American Lumberman says: "While the volume of wholesale business in the Coast trade has not increased lately, indications are that the bottom has been reached and that the buying of fir and other varieties of lumber consumed in California will soon be resumed on a more liberal scale than has been known for some time. Stocks are depleted in many of the yards, and, as freights have gone almost as low as it is possible for steamers to be operated, there is a good reason to think that buyers who have been holding off for lower prices will place large orders before long. "Similar conditions affected redwood lumber to some extent, but, if the foreign market comes up to present expectations and the Eastern rail trade does not fall off, an excellent yearly showing will yet be made. "White pine and sugar pine lumber are in good shape, with nearly all of the mills in full operation and shipping East. If the building trade disturbances in Chicago are not too long prolonged, a big year's business may be expected in the middle Western market as well as in the East."

Important Notice

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